Chris Fletcher

EDC 102

Professor Noonan

High School

I am from Walpole, Massachusetts which is a predominantly white suburban community. I live in comfortable neighborhood with my mother, Gina my father Chris, and two younger brothers, Matthew, and Patrick. My mother is Italian and Lebanese while my father is Irish and Austrian. I would say that I have personally identified more with my Italian and Lebanese side because of my skin tone, which is olive like. I am also around my mother’s side of the family more this has also influenced my thoughts about who I am. I attended a local public elementary school which was located at the end my neighborhood. I walked to school with other children from my neighborhood.

In 8th grade I applied to Xaverian Brothers High School. This is an all-male Catholic High School in the wealthy suburb of Westwood. I was at first hesitant to attend this school because I felt it would be out of place to go to classes with no girls all day. I remember the entrance exam being very hard with many concepts I had not seen before. I would say that going to Xaverian shaped me most as a person more than anything else. Nothing short of the best academic and athletic performance was expected of you. Here I made both the football and baseball teams. While I cut from the basketball team I joined the swim team to help stay active. My high school years were busy with the large work load and activities list.

In Chapter 2 of *Savage Inequalities* were see the comparison between Chicago’s south side and a wealthy suburb. My own high school experience is very much similar to the one described in the book by Kozol of the wealthy school. Experienced teachers, modern facilities and a relativity homogeneous student body where almost every single attends college is my own experience. The students were highly motivated and the teachers pushed us hard to succeed. This is vastly different from the conditions described in the book where students in high school were barely reading at a middle school level. Dropout rates are so high that many give up before even attending high school. All of the after school activities I did like football are not even mentioned in the book. As these schools can barely function on a day to day basis much less be able to filed athletic teams. These realities were unknown to me as they never occurred in my own community. It is eye opening to see the vast differences in our public school system.